CLAIMS:

1. A method of transferring a representation of an image to a surface, the method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving the image as an image file;

b) converting the image file to an intermediate file comprising a series of dots that vary according to the image;

c) manipulating the dots to accommodate features of the surface; and

d) converting the intermediate file into at least one control file that may be used by a machine to transfer markings corresponding to the dots onto the surface, thereby transferring the representation to the surface.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the dots are positioned according to a predetermined grid.

3. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the intermediate file is a raster file.

4. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the dots and the markings vary in size according to the image.

5. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the markings are selected from the group consisting of indentations, holes, bumps, and blanks according to the image.

6. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the markings are positioned according to a predetermined grid, vary in size according to the image, and are selected from the group consisting of indentations, holes, bumps, and blanks according to the image.

7. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including the step of

scaling the intermediate file to the surface.

8. The method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the step of scaling the intermediate file comprises dividing the intermediate file into a plurality of sub-components.

9. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein each of the sub-components corresponds to one of a plurality of individual sheets that are to be combined to form the surface.

10. The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the surface is larger than the machine can handle.

11. The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein each control file corresponds to each sheet and each marking, such that each sheet is produced by a plurality of processes performed by the machine and each process is controlled by a separate control file.

12. The method as set forth in claim 9, further including the step of assembling the sheets adjacent the building, thereby transferring the representation of the image to the building.

13. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the features include windows, doors, and edges of the sheets.

14. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the features are selected from the group consisting of windows, doors, and edges of the sheets.

15. A method of transferring a representation of an image to a surface of a building, the method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving the image as an image file;

b) converting the image file to a raster file comprising a series of dots that vary in size according to the image, wherein the dots are arranged according to a predetermined grid and selected ones of the dots are left blank according to the image;

c) scaling the raster file to the surface by dividing the raster file into a plurality of sub-components, such that each sub-component corresponds to a portion of the representation to be transferred to each of a plurality of individual metal sheets that are to be combined to form the surface;

d) associating the dots with markings selected from the group consisting of indentations, holes, and bumps according to the image;

e) manipulating the dots to accommodate features selected from the group consisting of windows, doors, and edges of the sub-components;

f) generating a plurality of control files that may be used by a machine to transfer the markings onto the sheets, thereby transferring the representation to the surface.

16. The method as set forth in claim 15, wherein each control file corresponds to each sheet and each marking, such that each sheet is produced by a plurality of processes performed by the machine and each process is controlled by a separate one of the control files.

17. The method as set forth in claim 15, further including the step of assembling the sheets adjacent the building, thereby transferring the representation of the image to the building.

18. A method of transferring a representation of an image to a surface of a building, the method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving the image as an image file selected from the group consisting of TIFF, JPEG, GIF, and BMP;

b) converting the image file to a raster file comprising a series of dots that vary in size according to the image, wherein the dots are arranged according to a predetermined grid and selected ones of the dots are left blank according to the image;

c) scaling the raster file to the surface, such that the image will occupy at least a majority of the surface;

d) dividing the raster file into a plurality of sub-components, such that each sub-component corresponds to a portion of the image;

e) associating each sub-component with each of a plurality of individual metal sheets that are to be combined to form the surface;

f) associating selected ones of the dots with indicia independent of the image;

g) associating the dots with markings selected from the group consisting of indentations, holes, and bumps according to the image;

h) manipulating the dots to accommodate windows of the surface;

i) manipulating the dots to accommodate doors of the surface;

j) manipulating the dots to accommodate edges of the sheets; and

k) generating a plurality of control files that may be used by a machine to transfer the markings onto the sheets, thereby imparting the representation to the surface.

19. The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein each control file corresponds to each sheet and each marking, such that each sheet is produced by a plurality of processes performed by the machine and each process is controlled by a separate control file.

20. The method as set forth in claim 18, further including the step of

assembling the sheets adjacent the building, thereby transferring the representation of the image to the building.

21. A computer program for generating at least one control file for use by a machine in transferring a representation of an image to a sheet, the program comprising:

an input module operable to receive the image as an image file and convert the image file to an intermediate file comprising a series of dots that vary according to the image;

a manipulation module operable for manipulating the dots to accommodate features of a surface; and

an output module operable to convert the intermediate file into the at least one control file.

22. The program as set forth in claim 21, wherein the program is further operable for scaling the intermediate file to the surface.